

SECRET

IIEA 0587
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7 December 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Development Branch, DPD

SUBJECT: Altimeter for U-2

1. Since the need for accurate altitude indication is acute in the U-2 it is highly desirable to obtain an instrument which more nearly satisfies the U-2 requirements at extreme altitudes.

2. Any instrument which will give an altitude reading with plus or minus two hundred feet accuracy is desirable. It is, of course, best if the reading is direct from the instrument, but precise correction factors are acceptable.

3. It is improbable to expect accuracy of two hundred feet over a continuous range from zero to operational altitudes but it may be feasible to get an instrument to read accurately in the sixty-to-eighty thousand foot range with emphasis on the mid-point (seventy thousand feet).

4. The following questions may be pertinent to the requested investigation:

a. What is the best altimeter available from any source?

b. Is there an altimeter in development by any military service or manufacturer which approaches the desired accuracy?

c. Can an altimeter be adjusted to be accurate in a relatively small range, i.e., 70M feet?

d. Can we have an altimeter manufactured to order to meet our requirements?

e. If a made-to-order altimeter can be procured, is the cost compatible with the operational need?

SIGNED

[Redacted]
Lt. Colonel, USAF

Acting Chief, Special Projects Branch, DPD

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